

# **Task Force for the Future Growth of Maryland (HB773, SB280)**

## **Education Work Group**

**Status Report as of 5/28/2009**

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### **1. Summary**

The Education Work Group has conducted 4 meetings thus far. To date various action items have been defined, assigned, and are in various stages of progress. Although the July 1 deadline is aggressive, we should be able to define the components of the web based training for Planning Commissioners and Boards of Appeals staff by the July 1, 2009 deadline as specified in SB280 Smart, Green, and Growing – Smart and Sustainable Growth Act of 2009.

### **2. Work Group Members/Attendees/Meetings:**

Amanda Conn, Jim Cohen, Peter Conrad, Sandy Coyman, Candace Donoho, Teena Green, Les Knapp, Jenny King, Sharon Reichlyn, Steve Allan

#### **Meetings to Date:**

- 03/27/09, kick-off
- 04/15/09, MDP
- 05/13/09, teleconference
- 05/26/09, MDP

### **3. Directive**

As per Senate Bill 280, Smart, Green, and Growing – Smart and Sustainable Growth Act of 2009, the recommended curriculum will augment or enhance existing smart growth educational offerings in the state. It will also identify new educational components needed to fill existing gaps and deficiencies in smart growth education throughout the state.

### **4. Work Group Objective:**

The objective of the work group is to provide the Task Force with a final report that (1) summarizes existing smart growth offerings throughout the state and that (2) recommends a web based curriculum that will improve and unify smart growth education in the state for:

- planning commissioners (due July 1, 2009)
- boards of appeals staff (due July 1, 2009)
- Pre-K to 12 students
- higher education students
- elected officials
- citizens, organizations, and so on

### **5. Definition**

The work group determined that the eventual recommendation should reflect the 12 Visions of Smart Growth and the 10 Smart Growth Principles. As a basis for defining Smart Growth for the purpose of defining the curriculum, the work group uses the following definition:

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Smart Growth is a term that includes three dimensions: the ultimate goals for land use planning, the characteristics of smart development that address those goals, and the process of good land use planning.

**A. Goals of Smart Growth Planning**

Smart Growth promotes livability, sustainability, well managed development, and a high quality of life for all Marylanders.

**B. Characteristics of Smart Development**

Smart Growth minimizes the human footprint by directing new development to existing population and business centers, growth areas adjacent to those centers, and/or strategically-selected new centers. The development is characterized by mixed uses, walkability, a range of employment and transportation options, equitable distribution of costs and benefits, diverse housing choices for citizens of varying incomes and life cycle stages, and a strong sense of community and place. These design features and components vary in order to reflect the character of a given area. Smart Growth planning and policy promotes vitality in cities, small towns and rural areas.

**C. Process of Smart Land Use Planning**

The Smart Growth planning process features active participation by an aware and knowledgeable citizenry, and collaboration between government, business entities and citizens in crafting plans to achieve Smart Growth goals. The resulting policies, strategies, programs and funding for growth and development, for natural resource conservation, and for transportation and other infrastructure, are integrated across local, regional, state and interstate levels.

## **6. Curriculum Target Audiences**

- Local Planners & Planning Commissioners (due July 1, 2009)
- Special Hearing Examiners (due July 1, 2009)
- Children (K-12)
- College Student
- Adults
- Elected Officials (Federal, State, Local)
- Community Leaders (including Neighborhood and Community Associations, Homeowner Associations)
- Environmental/Land Use Groups

## **7. Delivery Mechanisms**

- World Wide Web
- Schools
- Colleges/Universities
- Traditional Media (Mailings, Television, Radio, Newspapers)
- Professional Organizations (MPCA, APA)
- Town Meetings

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- Leadership Courses (Leadership Maryland, Academy for Excellence in Local Government)
- Nonprofit Organizations/Advocacy Groups
- State Agencies
- MACo/MML

#### 8. Action Items:

Member	Action Item	Date	Status
Les Knapp	Collect information via a county-by-county survey to identify the current and recent past inventory of education components from county planners. He will identify (1) what they have now, (2) the target audience, and (3) what they would like to see in the future.	5/13	In progress
Les Knapp and Candace Donoho	Collect the same level of information for planners in the municipalities.	5/13	In progress
Jim Cohen	Identify alternative definitions of Smart Growth	5/27	Complete
Peter Conrad and Jim Cohen	Peter and Jim will solicit the help of interns at UMD to collect offerings at the university. Other colleges and universities will also be inventoried.  Collect information on education components available from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.  Urban Studies and Planning Program (URSP), University of Maryland	5/13	In progress
Peter Conrad and Jim Cohen	Planning 101 in Prince George's County	5/27	Complete
Peter Conrad and Jim Cohen	Chesapeake Bay Foundation	5/27	Complete
Teena Green	Find out about smart growth course offerings from Leadership Maryland Academy for Excellence in Local Government.	5/13	Complete
Peter	Peter will compile the inventories of all work group members.		On-going
Sandy Coyman	Identify courses from the APA and Other organizations'  City of Cumberland Planning Commissioner Training Series.  <a href="http://ci.cumberland.md.us/new_site/index.php/contents/view/240">http://ci.cumberland.md.us/new_site/index.php/contents/view/240</a>	5/13	New
Amanda Conn	Schedule meeting between Education Work Group and MPD Information Technology Department to discuss Web content and design.	5/13	In progress
Teena Green	Develop a pictorial of the web based training content flow for the next meeting.	5/13/09	In progress

#### 9. Next Steps:

Hold an initial meeting with MDP's Information Technology department to discuss web content and design for the two modules needed for the July 1, 2009 deadline. Meetings between MDP IT and the Education Workgroup will be on-going.

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**10. Next Meeting: TBD**